

Violence Against Women Strategy

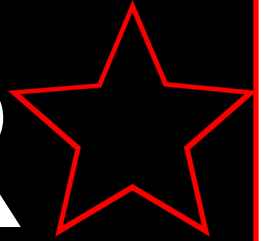


CNT-AIT Zara Protests



Ballymena: Rage and Rates!

BLACK STAR



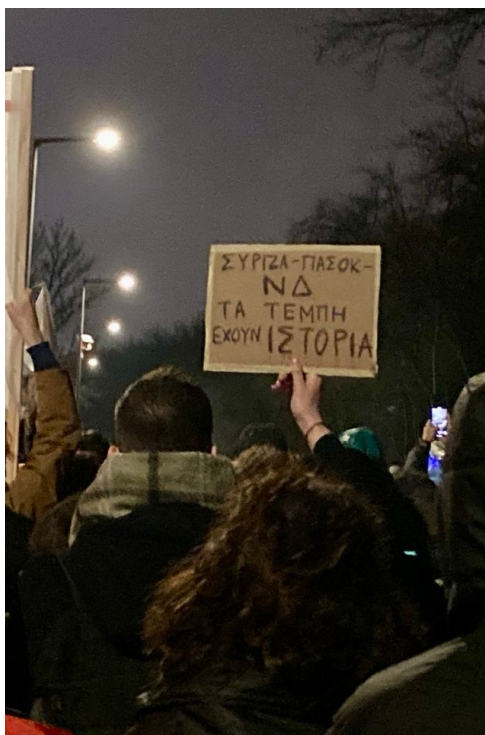
GREEK GENERAL STRIKE



PRIVATISATION KILLS!

In what has been widely regarded as possibly the biggest ever mass stoppage and protest in Greece, around half a million people took to the streets of Athens on the second anniversary of the Tempi train crash which resulted in the deaths of 57 people. The general strike was called by the Association of the Relatives of the Tempi Victims, forcing the big trade union confederations, the ADEDY (representing public sector workers), and the General Confederation of Greek Workers (representing those in private sector employment), to lend their support, though workers had already walked out the day before, including hundreds from a Coca-Cola factory near Athens. Hundreds of thousands more joined a protest in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki and in more than 100 cities across the world in solidarity with the strike and calls for justice for those killed and injured. A huge demonstration in Serbia reminded people of the 15 people killed when a railway station canopy collapsed on them in Novi Sad to the north-west of Belgrade back in November. At the heart of these protests are continuing attempts by right-wing governments to white-wash complicity in the deaths of working class people on decaying and privatised public transport systems. People in the crowd carried banners saying 'Privatisation Kills!'.

Against capital and the state— events in Greece



Another placard, pictured above, read 'Syriza, PASOK, ND—Tempi has a History'. ND or New Democracy are the current crop of conservative bastards in charge, leftist newcomers Syriza, and the old social democrats in PASOK, the former rulers. Many also carried a banner saying 'I have no oxygen', referring to the panicked last emergency phone call a young woman passenger on the train which collided with a freight train carrying flammable material and exploded on impact. The government tried to cover up the fact that the train drivers' union had repeatedly warned them about passenger safety and the likelihood of a major accident, especially as that same government was in the process of outlawing industrial action on the grounds of safety before the crash occurred. They also tried to ensure that the fact that the freight train was carrying flammable solvents and had removed this from its manifest did not come to light.

The rail network, TrainOSE, was sold off by Syriza for 45 million Euro in 2017 as part of a wider embrace of deregulation and privatisation, and paving the way for further neo-liberal politics under the current New Democracy party.

During the protests in Athens' Syntagma Square the cops moved in to break up the crowds, swinging batons and firing stun grenades, many anarchists fought back and the conflict raged into the early hours. Many of the demonstrators were injured

and there were dozens of arrests, but the genie is well and truly out of the bottle. Whilst the social democrats in Syriza and PASOK are seizing the opportunity to call for a no confidence vote in the government, they had best not think that they are off the hook. Not since the days of the military dictatorship of the 1970s has Greece witnessed such a rising working class movement, with strike after strike, this one being the largest in years.

What about the anarchists?

Known to most of us as the originator of the term 'anarchy', Greece has had varied anarchist traditions and groups over the years. However, the violence and oppression of the military junta paved the way for predominantly insurrectionist anarchist groups to emerge while the anarcho-syndicalist tradition of Constantinos Speras and the General Confederation of Greek Workers of the early twentieth century went into retreat.

Since the 1970s, a whole host of counter-cultural anarchist groups have taken a variety of direct action methods to attack the state and its forces in defence of the working class. Many of these groups grew out of the social centre and squat scene and often tended to feature students. This was focused on the Exarcheia neighbourhood of Athens, where the National Technical University is based, and a place now home to a large immigrant and refugee community. There was however, sometimes a gap between these, often underground anarchist organisations and the wider Greek working class.

A revived anarcho-syndicalist movement began to re-emerge in the early 2000s. The Libertarian Syndicalist Union (*Eleftheriakí Syndikalistikí Énosi*), or ESE was set up in 2003 and originally had cordial relations with the anarcho-syndicalist international, the International Workers' Association (IWA-AIT), before moving into the ranks of the reformist International Confederation of Labour (ICL). The Anarcho-Syndicalist Initiative known as Rocinante (the name of Don Quixote's horse), also emerged in this time though is not affiliated to the ICL. Writing about the train crash recently, they said, 'There is no doubt that the government and judges have no desire to bring to light the relationships

that traditionally link them to the various smugglers - the real laws of the free market and capitalism are not for everyone to learn. However, the crime in Tempe is not about the "cover-up", but about the very choice of Capital and the State for transport' (<https://rocinante.gr/o-kapitalismos-dolofonei/>).

Anarchist groups joined with others in resisting the roll-out of austerity from 2008 onwards, but a resurgence of illegalism and the deaths of some workers during an attack on a bank in 2010 led to calls for a different form of direct action that was more democratic and participatory.

On top of this the Greek state has been relentlessly pursuing and criminalising anarchist groups, social centres, squats and activities. Just hours before the general strike and protests of 28 February, the cops raided the 'Epi ta Prossou' squat and self-managed space in the city of Patras on the Peloponnese peninsula to the west of Athens, arresting four militants. Although they were later released, it signalled the beginning of a host of arrests in other places of students trade union activists and others, often simply for heading towards the rallying point in Athens. Clearly, this was an attempt to disrupt and weaken the organisational efforts of anarchist groups in particular. As Rocinante said 'For this reason, every day, various government officials attempted to cultivate a climate of fear about the rallies, constantly talking about "incidents" and "scoundrels", while at the same time calling on the strikers to express their pain "silently", in a kind of memorial service' (<https://rocinante.gr/to-orgio-katastolis-epese-sto-keno/>).

Undoubtedly, we can expect more of the same should the social democrats manage to get back in, for they have obviously learned from their capitalist comrades. The difficulty for anarchists may well be to resist the urge again towards isolated incendiary groups unconnected to the wider mass movement of workers unleashed by the terrible corporate manslaughter at Tempi.



The Parliamentary Road to Pothole Filling



One-in-five earning less than 'real living wage' in Northern Ireland

NI worst earning region in the UK

THE IRISH NEWS

Only 16% of public believe Stormont MLAs deserve pay rise of almost £20k

Belfast Telegraph



THE BIG PARTIES ANGLING FOR A £20K PAY RISE WHILE WORKERS WORK FOR POVERTY WAGES. IT'S COMPLETELY OUT OF TOUCH.

GERRY CARROLL MLA



Gerry Carroll has been making waves in Stormont lately. Taking on the landlords in an Assembly where one in five MLAs are landlords and where the rest (barring Gerry of course) are the beneficiaries of landlordism.

Raising awareness of the number of empty homes in the North compared to the pathetic number of new social housing homes provided in 2023/24 (22,505 to 1,403) and of the Westminster govt. giving a £1.6bn cash injection to arms company Thales is all very righteous. He is correct that the huge 20k pay rise MLAs are "angling for" is "out of touch" but was alone in opposing it. The same Stormont MLAs all voted against Gerry's proposal on rent controls.

We have to admire him on a cretin level but Gerry is proof if proof was needed that

there is no parliamentary road to socialism.

Outvoted at every turn, Gerry is often making waves in an empty chamber. The budget he opposed was the budget of the Assembly of which he is, an albeit awkward, part. When he isn't on the streets campaigning this revolutionary socialist is reduced to vox pops, taking photos of potholes and photo ops at other peoples demos.

We aren't claiming a wonderful track record of achievement for socialism. We are simply pointing out that government cannot be opposed from within and that the movement we need to build will be in our workplaces and communities. The only places the working-class have ever won anything worth winning.

Meanwhile... in Ballymena



Back safely in Ballymena now after my wee trip up to the north-west, or so I thought. Was in the toon the other day when a gulder was thrown up followed by a car ramming and regular stooshie in the street. Apparently, someone involved is banned from taking either his samurai sword or crossbow into Dunclug anymore, which is not only unfair but probably unsafe as well.

Talking of protecting yourself from the forces of darkness, our esteemed wee council struck the rates bill the other day and every householder stands to see a fifty quid increase in what we are currently paying. Their excuse for the rates hike? Having to pay their workforce more money because of the increase in employer national insurance contributions, which is an increase of 1.2 per cent! Seriously, I know bosses are crying like fuckin' weans for having to marginally increase the already piss poor pay most of them give, but a public employer is aiming to increase costs for householders clearly to completely offset any tiny benefits that their own employees might get. I know us Ballymena wans have a reputation for being tight, but for fuck's sake, this is really taking the piss.

END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



'There are such important things facing women in Northern Ireland, not just violence against women and girls or the lack of childcare, but general societal attitudes'. That was the response of one of the Act Now NI representatives at a gathering in the Shankill Women's Centre recently, which discussed Stormont's strategy on ending violence against women and girls. Others agreed, besides the usual photo opportunities, soundbites and empty promises, the politicians have only the same old shite to offer us. As another speaker at the event noted, 'there's been no real effort to make meaningful change or to hold people to account'.

And what do we expect, Michelle and Emma think we're all fuckin' daft enough to believe that the fact they are women automatically means we can rest assured this is a top priority and will be dealt with. The old glass ceiling feminism of the aspirational middle class represented by

these two chuckle sisters of the Executive Office is on the way out and a new generation of young women and girls want more than a personal stairway into the halls of power. They are not going to sit back and be reassured by these arsehole politicians that government will deliver.

But what about the men and boys? After all, gender-based violence in the North is on what seems like an inexorable rise and the silence from blokes is fucking deafening. Okay, we attend the odd rally and show our solidarity and anger but what are we really doing to challenge the poisonous misogyny that exists all round us. We know that capital and the division of labour lies at the heart of this and tackling the root causes is the only thing that will ultimately change things, but we need to be doing more with men and boys to educate, challenge, root out, and destroy the vicious misogyny in society.



Northern Anarcho-Syndicalist News from Organise!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND RUSSIAN REVOLUTION



International Working Women's Day
8th March 1917 marked the beginning of the Russian revolution. Nevsky Prospekt, Petrograd's main avenue saw thousands, overwhelmingly women and children, congregate at noon to demand bread.

Soon their numbers were increased as female textile workers from the Vyborg side of the city came out on strike in protest against shortages of bread. The strike began by the women workers spread and as the crowds grew even larger cries of "Bread!" and "Down with the Tsar!" went up. Within hours 100,000 workers were on strike in the city. As they began to cross the Liteiny Bridge to the city centre most were violently dispersed by police but several thousand made it across the frozen river.

The next day 150,000 workers took to the streets. They marched on Nevsky Avenue, overturning trams and carriages and looting shops. They fought off police and Cossacks. By the afternoon they were joined by students, shopkeepers, and office workers.

This is how the Russian Revolution began. It was a revolution that demanded an end to war and for

WORKING WOMEN'S DAY THE EVOLUTION



peace, bread and freedom. That demanded power to factory councils and local soviets. They demanded an end to the reign of the Tsars. For a brief time they attained all those things, until the revolution began by women on the 8th March 1917 was usurped by the one party dictatorship of the Bolsheviks.

Emma Goldman would proclaim at the beginning of the revolution:

"The hated Romanovs were at last hurled from their throne, the Tsar and his cohorts shorn of power. It was not the result of a political coup d'état; the great achievement was accomplished by the rebellion of the entire people."



Emma Goldman speaks at Kropotkin's funeral in Moscow 13 February 1921.

By now her hopes in revolutionary Russia had been bashed by Bolshevik dictatorship.

MARÍA ASCASO ABADÍA ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST 5th May 1908 - 10th March 1968

On March 10th, 1968, anarcho-syndicalist María Ascaso Abadía died in Mexico City. María was born on May 5th, 1908 in Almudéver, Huesca, Aragon, Spain. Her parents were Domingo Ascaso Corredor and Emilia Abadía Abad. She was the younger sister of prominent anarchists Domingo and Francisco and a dedicated anarcho-syndicalist militant in her own right.

In 1926 she took an active role in the Ascaso, Durruti and Jover Committee, which was created to demand the freedom of the three anarcho-syndicalists who had been arrested in France and who were under threat of extradition back to Spain.

During the Spanish Revolution María, together with Paula Feldstein and Lluís Riera Planas, operated the "Colonia Ascaso-Durruti" opened by International Antifascist Solidarity (SIA) in Catalonia. Here, 300 children were taken in and cared for, most of them orphans.

In 1939, with the triumph of the fascists, she crossed the Pyrenees. In July 1939, she was part of a group of refugees, including her mother Emilia and her son, most of whom were members of the CNT who, despite having the correct documentation, were unable to leave as arranged for Mexico. This was because refugee communist leaders had replaced the Spanish Refugee Evacuation Service (SERE) at the last minute, carrying out their own selection of those among the refugees to go to Mexico. As a result María's partner ended up dying of typhus in a concentration camp in Bordeaux. Her son Sol died shortly afterwards in another French concentration camp.

She fled France with her mother and settled in the city of Trujillo in 1940 and later moved to Mexico, where she continued to be active in the CNT in exile until her death.



SolFed Hospitality Union Dispute With *Almost Famous* Over Zero Notice Redundancies



SolFed Hospitality Union and a former employee of burger chain *Almost Famous* protested outside a partner restaurant in Manchester after a no-notice redundancy left him without pay for a month.

On January 27, *Almost Famous* made more than 110 workers redundant across their branches in Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool – with many only finding out about their redundancies on social media.

Our comrades in the SolFed Hospitality Union picketed Manchester's Northern Quarter's burger spot *Super Awesome Deluxe* as it is run by the *Almost Famous* team. Leaflets were handed out highlighting the struggle of the chains recently made redundant workforce.

One of the former workers, made redundant without notice from their *Great Northern* restaurant said:

"We got a message from our head chef telling us that we had all been made redundant, with zero notice whatsoever.

"Some people got to the door and thought that they were working as normal, but were told they couldn't get in because the business was in the process of becoming insolvent."

SolFed Hospitality Workers' Union said the alleged inability of *Almost Famous* to pay its workers came just months after it opened *Super Awesome Deluxe* restaurant at the end of 2024.

Tony, from SolFed Hospitality Workers' Union, said: "They went bankrupt, but they've got this [*Super Awesome Deluxe*] open.

"They knew they were going bankrupt a month before, and they had people working all that month."

Management however kept staff in the dark, and monthly paid staff effectively worked for nothing in January. It is clear that *Almost Famous* workers and premises were culled to pool resources into *Super Awesome*, a reprehensible action. The SolFed Hospitality Workers' Union is now taking action to ensure former workers from *Almost Famous* get what they are owed.



Wobbly Getting it Wrong In Iowa



Many wobblies (IWW members) are ecstatic as Oliver Weilein has been elected to Iowa city council. Oliver won the election with just over 60% of the vote.

Weilein at his victory party spoke of tension:

"The tension that happens when the people in power get fucking scared."

From his new position in government he has declared that we don't need permission from "anybody in government to improve your community."

Soundly beating a scumbag property developer to get the seat undoubtedly provides some level of satisfaction - but we doubt very much that the Trump regime is at all scared by Weilein's election.

We are not claiming the IWW endorsed this campaign at any organisational level. We wouldn't really care one way or another if they did - they'd be wrong to - but the IWW are not anarcho-syndicalist.

The enthusiasm for the electoral victory of a self-proclaimed anarcho-syndicalist gives cause for concern - particularly as many are happy to blur distinctions between different forms of revolutionary syndicalism and revolutionary unionism.

Anarcho-syndicalism is clear in its rejection of electoralism. Instead it encourages working class self organisation, direct action and solidarity - both to win struggles in the short-term and, ultimately, to overthrow the whole rotten system of state and capital. Sorry Oliver you don't do that by taking a seat at the table.

CNT-AIT ZARA PROTESTS



Our comrades in Spain in the CNT-AIT with the support of our international, the IWA, call on all comrades for solidarity with their victimised member and worker for the Zara chain, Lefties, in Badalona, Barcelona.

The trouble began when our comrade, Eva, began to face cuts to her hours and pay when returning to work after the pandemic. This was in spite of the fact that she was a single parent with disabilities and when she raised the issues, including the loss of bonuses, she was suspended for three days without pay. Currently on the sick and receiving treatment, she is still awaiting news of the family assistance she is entitled

to. However, her period on the sick is likely to be revoked soon and on top of this, as her eldest daughter is about to turn 12, she will lose the right to a more favourable work schedule, according to Zara-Lefties HR people. This will compel Eva to work shifts and days that will interfere with her childcare needs. As the CNT-AIT in Badalona said 'we are fed up with seeing how HR departments treat workers. Created to serve the interests of businesses, they treat employees as mere resources to be exploited for higher corporate profits. For them, we are not people—we are just tools for maximizing revenue'.

The CNT-AIT is calling for the support of all unions affiliated with the IWA-AIT in the ongoing conflict against Lefties, a Zara brand under the Inditex Group. They request the mass sending of emails, dissemination on social media, and, where possible, pickets in front of Inditex Group stores.

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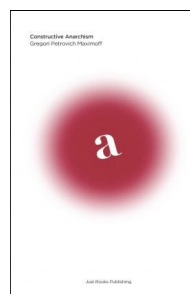
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Just Books Publishing



Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist

international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£7.99



The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea*.

Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism,

this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years...

(Brian Morris on *The Idea*)

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

The (A) Centre Belfast, AKUK, A Distro, AK USA, PM Press...

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985. We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork



affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Dublin, Lisburn, Monaghan, Newry, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We have a new Local in Formation in South Ulster. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid. Every member is an active member.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to: organiseasi@gmail.com

